

SENATE BILL 2278

By Rochelle

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Title 50 and Title 56, relative to the establishment of a state-funded incentive program designed to stimulate business and corporate involvement in student financial aid by the provision of partial subsidization of students in career-related work-study positions.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 7, is amended by adding a new part thereto consisting of Sections 2 through 8 of this act.

SECTION 2. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Tennessee Student Employment Incentive Program."

SECTION 3. The purpose of this act is to provide Tennessee resident students enrolled at eligible higher education institutions with greater opportunities for career-related employment as they complete their undergraduate and graduate course curricula. The Tennessee student employment incentive program achieves the twin goals of giving students more career-related work experience and providing private sector employers with an avenue to assist students toward their educational goals.

SECTION 4. The state of Tennessee shall provide reimbursement of up to thirty-five percent (35%) of the wages of participating students employed by private, for-profit and non-profit employers. Provided, however, the employment of these students shall not result in the displacement of existing members of the private firm's workforce. Participating students shall be enrolled on at least a half-time basis in an eligible institution as defined below.

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SECTION 5. The funds supplied through the Tennessee student employment incentive program shall be paid directly to students in the manner specified in Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-302, or as a reimbursement to employers of such students, who provide needed services for a specified number of hours in a capacity approved by the board of directors of the Tennessee student assistance corporation.

SECTION 6. The Tennessee student employment incentive program shall be open to Tennessee resident students as defined by regulations promulgated by the board of regents for the state university and community college system who are enrolled at institutions of higher education that are certified as eligible for participation in the Tennessee student assistance award program.

SECTION 7. The Tennessee student employment incentive program shall be phased in over a two-year period. First-year funding shall not exceed fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) for program start-up and implementation. Second-year funding of one million dollars (\$1,000,000) will enable the program to place approximately two thousand (2,000) students in work-study positions. The program shall be administered by the Tennessee student assistance corporation with the stipulation that its implementation will require the hiring of a program coordinator and appropriate support staff. If the full amount of funds appropriated for the program is not utilized in any given year, those funds remaining shall revert to the Tennessee student assistance award program for distribution as need-based financial aid grants.

SECTION 8. Implementation of the provisions of this act is subject to the funding being provided in the general appropriations act.

SECTION 9. This act shall take effect July 1, 1998, the public welfare requiring it, but no expenditure shall be made until funds are appropriated for that purpose.